



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Below is the entire set of pending claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R §1.121(c)(3)(i), with mark-ups showing the changes made in the present Amendment.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a security card, comprising the steps of:
  - a) providing a substrate having a reflective region covering a portion of the substrate that is substantially less than the entire surface of the substrate,  
wherein the reflective region comprises a metal film suitable for  
increasing the visibility of an overlying securing image;
  - b) thermally depositing identification details onto the substrate;
  - c) depositing a protective layer of plastics material onto the substrate so as to protect the identification details, and selectively altering the optical properties of the protective layer in at least a region overlying the reflective region so as to form a security image therein.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the metal film is printed onto the substrate.

4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 3, in which the metal film is provided on a carrier film and is brought into contact with the substrate at a printing station and transferred to the substrate.

5. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the layer of plastics material is provided on a carrier film and in which a plurality of heater elements are provided on a thermal print head, and in which the heater elements are energized when the carrier film is in contact with the substrate to transfer the plastics material to the substrate.

6. (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 5, in which the heating elements are energized to deposit a continuous layer of the plastics material over the whole of an area to be covered such that the plastics material serves as a protective coating.

7. (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 6, in which selected regions of the plastics material are heated to a greater degree than other areas so as to vary a surface appearance of the plastics layer.

8. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 7, in which the full thickness of the plastics film is deposited and selected portions thereof are overheated so as to give these portions a different appearance.

9. (Original) A method as claim in claim 8, in which the overheated portions have a satin appearance.

10. (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 8, in which the overheated portions have a matte appearance.

11. (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the security image is printed over the substrate in a repeating pattern.

12. (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the layer of plastics material is deposited on the substrate during a printing process, and in which the security image to be formed in the plastics layer is held in a memory device readable by one of the printer and a data processor controlling the printer.

13. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 12, in which the memory device is a removable device.

14. (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 12, in which the security image is held in an encrypted form.

15. (Original) A surface printed in accordance with the method of claim 1.

16. (Currently Amended) A printed item, the item comprising a substrate having a first surface, wherein a reflective element is provided on a portion of the first surface that is substantially less than the entire surface of the substrate, wherein the reflective element

comprises a metal film suitable for increasing the visibility of an overlying security image, and  
where identification details are printed onto the first surface and wherein a plastic layer is deposited over the substrate and the optical properties of the plastics layer are altered in at least a region overlying the reflective element.

17. (Previously Amended) A printed item as claimed in claim 16, in which the plastic layer is deposited as a substantially uniform layer.

18. (Previously Amended) A printed item as claimed in claim 17, in which portions of the plastic layer are overheated in order to change the appearance of those portions.

19. (Previously Amended) A printed item as claimed in claim 16, in which the item comprises an identity card.

20. (Previously Amended) A printed item as claimed in claim 16, in which the item is selected from the group consisting of a security card, a bank card, a license and a credit card.